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## PLANK OWNERS

### *Wardroom*

Commander Joseph A. Pica, NOAA – Commanding Officer

Richard Patana – Executive Officer

Lieutenant Commander Jeremy B. Weirich, NOAA – Operations Officer

Lieutenant Vanessa Hadley, USPHS – Medical Officer

Ensign Matthew C. Griffin, NOAA – Navigation Officer

Ensign Benjamin S. Bloss, NOAA – Junior Officer

### *Engineering Department*

Robert Dennis – Chief Marine Engineer

Ricardo Gabona – Second Assistant Engineer

Alan Bennett – Third Assistant Engineer

Margret Collins – General Vessel Assistant

Jim Watkins – General Vessel Assistant

### *Deck Department*

Jeffrey Brawley – Boatswain Group Leader

Kevin Moran – Able-bodied Seaman

Peter Lavelle – Able-bodied Seaman

James Deeton – General Vessel Assistant

### *Steward Department*

Kenneth Wells – Chief Steward

Nathan Thomas – Second Cook

Jack Standfast – General Vessel Assistant

### *Survey Department*

Elaine Stuart – Senior Survey Technician

Colleen Peters – Senior Survey Technician

### *Electronics Department*

Richard Conway – Chief Electronics Technician

Jeff Hill – Rotating Electronics Technician

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## NOAA SHIP *OKEANOS EXPLORER* (R337)

### COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



August 13, 2008

Pier 66

Seattle, Washington



U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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## ORDER OF EVENTS

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL PARTY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRESENTATION OF COLORS

INVOCATION

Commander Bryan K. Finch, CHC, USN  
U.S.C.G. Thirteenth District Chaplain

AUTHORIZATION AND REMARKS

John J. Sullivan  
Deputy Secretary of Commerce

COMMISSIONING

NATIONAL ANTHEM

SETTING THE WATCH

## HONORARY PLANK OWNERS

*Individuals who contributed significantly to the successful conversion of the ship*

Joseph Bohr  
Frank Colohan  
Fred Gorell  
Susan Gottfried  
Dr. Gordon Green  
Jim Hallock  
Dr. Stephen Hammond  
Raymond Hermes  
Scott Hill  
Joe Hubbard  
James Hutton  
John Katebini  
Paula Keener-Chavis  
Steve Lavery  
Thanh Loi  
Ken Long  
Dave Lovalvo  
Justin Manley  
Catalina Martinez  
John McDonough  
Sharon Mesick  
Captain Christopher Moore, NOAA  
Gene Nelson  
Douglas Perry  
Jeff Peter  
Webb Pinner  
Jeremy Potter  
Paul Reed  
Craig Russell  
Timothy Salisbury  
Lieutenant Nicola Samuelson, NOAA  
Lieutenant Commander Douglas Schleiger, NOAA (Ret.)  
Dennis Shields  
Timothy Trembley  
Michael Webb  
Robert Wilmot

## NOAA SHIP *OKEANOS EXPLORER*

Today the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissions *Okeanos Explorer*, the first federal ship dedicated to systematically exploring the largely unknown ocean for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge. The commissioning ceremony is a maritime tradition in which the ship enters national service and is turned over to her commanding officer. Once commissioned, *Okeanos Explorer* will begin a period of crew training and field testing of exploration systems in the Pacific before embarking on its first operational field season in 2009.

*Okeanos Explorer* will systematically survey areas of the largely unknown ocean. When something unusual is detected, the ship will stop to deploy remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs), attached by a tether and capable of operating in depths to 6,000 meters. These and other sensors and systems will investigate the seafloor and characterize the water column. Together with shore-based exploration teams, scientists and technicians at sea will investigate an anomaly or discovery and develop enough data before moving on, to allow other scientists to plan for subsequent missions.

*Okeanos Explorer* will use telepresence – satellite and high-speed Internet-based technology – to enable scientists on shore at any of five Exploration Command Centers to participate in and even direct real-time exploration while viewing live images from the seafloor and accessing other ocean data. Those scientists, and others on call if a discovery is made at sea, will add their expertise to missions no matter where in the world the ship is located. Using satellite and standard Internet pathways, the ship will also share the excitement of discovery in real time with news reporters, students, and members of the general public.

As part of the NOAA fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, *Okeanos Explorer* will be operated, managed, and maintained by officers of the NOAA Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services, and by wage mariners and civilians under the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The ship's exploration systems will be operated by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research. Explore with us at

### GUEST SPEAKERS

**Dr. Robert D. Ballard**  
Founder and President, Institute For Exploration

**Dr. Stephen R. Hammond**  
Acting Director, NOAA Office of  
Ocean Exploration and Research

**Rear Admiral Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA**  
Director, NOAA Corps and  
Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.**  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

### PLANK OWNER RECOGNITION

### BENEDICTION

### SHIP TOURS

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

*For their participation in today's ceremony, our appreciation to ...*

Commander Bryan K. Finch, CHC, USN, U.S.C.G. Thirteenth District Chaplain  
Spanaway Lake High School Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard  
U.S. Navy Band Northwest

*For their strong support of the Ocean Exploration Program and development of Okeanos Explorer, its discovery flagship ...*

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), and NOAA Administrator

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Rear Admiral Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA, Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, whose support for and partnership with the ocean exploration program and the development of NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer* is leading to new and improved ways to explore the ocean and to innovative ways to staff and operate this ship, and potentially other ships in the NOAA fleet.

Rear Admiral Samuel P. De Bow, NOAA (Ret.), former Director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, who worked closely with and supported NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration.

Captain Craig N. McLean, NOAA (Ret.), Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the founding Director of NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program, whose vision helped create a world-class program of ocean exploration and led to the acquisition of *Okeanos Explorer*.

Dr. Robert D. Ballard, Founder and President, Institute For Exploration, who envisioned and led telepresence-enabled ocean expeditions that were dress rehearsals for the operation of *Okeanos Explorer*, and who recognized and supported early on, the extraordinary value of live connections from seafloor to scientists, students and teachers ashore, and the value of a NOAA ship for exploration.

*For taking leadership roles in the Ship's Conversion Management Team...*

Joseph Bohr, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, and Co-Chair, Ship Conversion Management Team

John McDonough, Office of Ocean Exploration, and Co-Chair, Ship Conversion Management Team

Dr. Gordon Green, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Tim Trembly, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Ken Long, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Paul Reed, Western Regional Acquisition Division

Craig Russell, Office of Ocean Exploration

Justin Manley, Office of Ocean Exploration

Webb Pinner, Office of Ocean Exploration

Catalina Martinez, Office of Ocean Exploration

Lieutenant Jeremy Weirich, NOAA, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Lieutenant Nicola Samuelson, NOAA, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Lieutenant Commander Doug Schleiger, NOAA (Ret.)

*For members of NOAA's Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group, renowned scientists and explorers whose expertise and recommendations help set the course for NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program and for Okeanos Explorer, NOAA's discovery flagship...*

Dr. Robert Ballard, Co-Chair; Founder and President, Institute For Exploration

Dr. Larry Mayer, Co-Chair; Director, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, Joint Hydrographic Center, University of New Hampshire

Dr. Marcia McNutt, President and CEO, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Dr. Vera Alexander, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dr. Jamie Austin, University of Texas

Mr. Jesse Ausubel, The Rockefeller University

Mr. Terry Garcia, National Geographic Society

Bruce C. Gilman, P.E., President, Marine Technology Society

Dr. Tom Rossby, University of Rhode Island

Kym Murphy, former member; The Walt Disney Company

Dr. Haraldur Sigurdsson, former member; University of Rhode Island

*For their submission of the winning name Okeanos Explorer through NOAA's ship naming contest ...*

Woodstock High School team members: John Dew, Elizabeth Gazdziak, Eric Hunt, Ashley Pauls, and Stephen Shepley; and Marianne Jahnke, teacher

*.....and to those many others whose dedication and skills have shaped and are proudly reflected in this outstanding ship of discovery.*